

Group Project: Blogging

One aspect of effective teaching and learning is the active participation of students, both in the classroom and outside the classroom. This project is designed to have students participate in course activities in a unique way: through online blogging. Blog is used widely by information technology professionals for information sharing and informal knowledge contribution. In this class, each student group will create a group blog site and contribute to the discussion by writing something related to the course content, and giving active feedback to other's blog as well. This informational writing (compared to term papers) is an effective and efficient way of learning and knowledge sharing.

Specific guidelines:

1. Administrative issues

- This is a group assignment. Each group needs to set up a blog site on <http://blogspot.com>. All members of a group need to be the authors of the same blog.
- You need to set up the blog site within the first two weeks (email the URL to me). All blogs will be listed in the CIS 8020 blog site: <http://cis8020.blogspot.com>
- You should write blogs from September to November 2009. You are welcome to continue to use your blog site after that.
- Writing and reading blogs are important parts of the course work. Blogs are one of the important readings before class, especially the blog from the team who will present in the coming week.
- I hope you can learn a lot from these blogs.

2. Blog content

- Generally, you can write anything related to System Integration topics. There are some great blogs listed in the CIS8020 blog site. They may give you some idea what to write.
- Everyone in the group needs to contribute. Each group should at least post 2 new blog entries per month.
- Please be aware of copyright issues. You need to write the blog by yourself. Do not copy and paste materials from other sources without referencing. Particularly, you should not copy another blog as your own blog. You will lose points for the first time and get a warning; and you will be charged with academic dishonesty for the second time.
- Please take care your blog and respond to other students' comments promptly.
- Besides writing blogs, each student needs to read other group's blog and write relevant comments.

3. Blog site development

- The blog sites on Blogspot.com are not just for writings. Many gadgets are provided to integrated external applications and content. A website can be developed based on the blogspot.com framework. You will develop such a blog site and have some hands-on experience of integration and mash-up.
- It's not difficult to develop a blog site; but it's not easy. Spend some time learning it and continue to grow your site. You can visit other groups' blog sites and exchange ideas with them.
- Please do the following
 - Display all contributors' names using the contributor gadget.
 - At least follow the blog <http://cis8020.blogspot.com>; it's optional you follow other groups' blogs.
 - Put a link to <http://cis8020.blogspot.com> in a noticeable location, which is convenient for others to check course information and other blogs. It's optional to link to other blogs.

- Categorize/label/tag your blog entries and display them using the gadget.
- Please sign in to make comments. In this way, I can track your contributions. You don't have to use your real name, but you need to let me know the name you use.

5. Grading (total 100)

- Blog content quality (40): informative, educational, inspiring, thinking in depth, good analysis, etc.
- Site development (20):
- Comments to other blogs (20): meaningful, constructive, etc.
- Group evaluation (10): the form will be distributed at the end of the semester.
- Hard requirements (10)
 - Minimum number of blog entries on “system integration”: 10.
 - Blogging frequency: at least 2 blogs per month.
 - Minimum meaningful comments made to other groups' blog entries on system integration: 10.
 - Minimum number of gadgets in your blog site: 10